

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY ON EXCHANGES

REF: A) STATE 298482; B) PRAGUE 2300; C) STATE 194074

1. FIRST SECRETARY JOZEF JAROSEK OF CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY CALLED ON CU/EE DIRECTOR AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDING EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA. JAROSEK READILY AGREED THAT WE SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR THE SIGNING OF THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT CURRENTLY BEING NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE US AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA BEFORE ENLARGING CURRENT PROGRAMS AND INITIATING NEW ONES.

2. CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND BRIEFED JAROSEK ON THE RANGE OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATELY-SPONSORED, WHICH THE US HAS WITH OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. RICHMOND PROPOSED WE START WITH ABOUT TEN PEOPLE ON INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS BEGINNING IN NOVEMBER TO ALLOW CZECHS TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACTS IN THE US. HE ALSO SAID WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CZECH LECTURERS IN THE US AND MADE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF

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VIRGINIA REQUEST (REFTEL C) OTHER PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

INCLUDED AMSPECS AND DIRECT EXCHANGES BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES.
WE REMINDED JAROSEK OF UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA PROPOSAL TO
BRNO WHICH WENT UNANSWERED.

3. JAROSEK NOTED THE REDUCED SCOPE OF THE IREX PROGRAM
FROM 100 MAN-MONTHS LAST YEAR TO 50 THIS YEAR AND
REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT AT ONE TIME THERE WERE ABOUT
500-600 CZECHSONVARIOUS ACADEMIC/RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE
US. WE REPLIED BY NOTING INCREASED COSTS OF ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS, INCREASED INTEREST IN ALL EE COUNTRIES IN SUCH
EXCHANGES, AND LIMITED FUNDING ON US SIDE. WE AGAIN
STRESSED PRIVATE NATURE OF IREX PROGRAM. JAROSEK ACCEPTED
OUR SUGGESTION ON THE IVP PROGRAM AS THE BEST WAY TO GET
THINGS MOVING AND, IN THIS REGARD, SAID HE WOULD REQUEST
THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE TO PREPARE A LIST OF NAMES BOTH
IN THE HUMANITIES AND HARD SCIENCES THAT WILL BE ACCEPT-
ABLE TO THE US.

4. COMMENT: JAROSEK WAS RETICENT THROUGHOUT MEETING AND
SEEMED MORE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND

THAN IN REVEALING CZECH THOUGHTS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE,
IF NOT PROBABLE, THAT JAROSEK HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM
PRAGUE ON WHAT CZECH POSITION ON PRE-AGREEMENT EXCHANGES
MIGHT BE. WE STRESSED OUR INTEREST IN HAVING A PROGRAM
BALANCED IN ALL CATEGORIES BETWEEN HARD SCIENCES AND

SOCIAL SCIENCES ANDHUMANITIES. JAROSEK APPEARED TO
UNDERSTAND AND THIS MAY BE WHY HE MENTIONED MINISTRY OF
CULTURE, ALTHOUGH HIS MAIN INTEREST HERE IS SCIENCE.
WHILE WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN EXCHANGES WITH THE
MINISTRY OF CULTURE, WE SUGGEST EMBASSY EXPLAIN TO CZECHS
THAT THE IV PROGRAM IS OPEN TO PEOPLE IN ALL FIELDS OF
MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND NOT LIMITED TO
CULTURE. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PREPARE LIST OF SUBJECTS
OF PRIORITY INTEREST, AND SHOULD SEEK AGREEMENT ON FIELDS
OF INTEREST AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL NOMINATIONS. WE ARE
PREPARED TO START RECEIVING INDIVIDUAL IVS IN NOVEMBER.
FURTHER DETAILS ON CU PROGRAMS POUCHED EMBASSY TODAY,
ATTN QUINN. ROBINSON
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